ii. Inadequate shunt capacity in the system and consequently poor system conditions leading to tripping of generating units, mostly in the thermal power stations.

iii. Restriction of power supply by NTPC to the extent of payment being made by DESU.

(c) Measures being taken to improve the power supply position in Delhi include the following:

i. All States in the Northern Region have been asked to restrict their drawal to their entitled share and obey the instructions of NREB in this regard.

ii. Maximise generation from the existing units.

iii. DESU has been requested to increase the payment to NTPC for Badarpur and other Stations of the Region.

iv. DESU has been advised to carry out the demand side management so that the grid is not disturbed in the event of short supply of power.

Setting up of Tariff Boards

654. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recently held National Development Council Meeting, Chief Ministers of various States have urged the Central Government to take immediate action for setting up of national/regional tariff boards, with a view to rationalise power tariffs; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002), the rationalisation of the Tariff Structure was also, *inter-alia*, raised by some of the Chief Ministers in the meeting.

The Government have also finalised and adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power which, *inter-alia*, provides for the constitution of Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and rationalisation of Tariffs.

Frequent power cuts in the Northern States

655. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main reasons for frequent power cuts in States in the Northern Grid; and

(b) what is the long term antidote to the ongoing power crisis in the capital and surrounding areas of the Northern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) There is a gap in demand and supply of Power. It is, therefore, necessary to resort to power cuts/restrictions to various categories of consumers to contain the demand within the availability.

(b) Raising the power generation to match the demand is the long term solution to the present power crisis. To achieve this following steps are required:—

i. Maximising the generation from the existing capacity.

ii. Renovation & Modernisation of Units.

iii. Reduction of T&D losses.

iv. Demand management and energy conservation measures.

v. Arranging the transfer of power from neighbouring system/states; and

vi. Expediting the commissioning of new power projects.